



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of **CHILD SAFETY**

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

Preliminary Report	Fatality	09/14/2022
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- 1. Victim:** Jia Montanez – 11-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 03/24/21
- 3. Date of fatality:** 03/26/21
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 05/13/21
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa – age 29 – Phoenix, AZ

7. Circumstances of the fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On March 24, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 11-year-old, Jia Montanez, after a motor vehicle accident. The child's sibling was also injured in the accident. On May 13, 2021, Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa was charged with one count of manslaughter, one count of aggravated assault and two counts of aggravated DUI.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS received the following prior reports involving Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa and the child's mother:

On March 13, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a Jia Montanez and a sibling by the child's mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided in-home services which were not successfully completed by the family due to a lack of participation. The case was closed on November 27, 2013.

On September 18, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by the child's mother and Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with community resources and the case was closed on August 9, 2016.

On December 7, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to Jia Montanez and her siblings by the children's mother and Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa. The allegations were unsubstantiated. This report was still open when the next report was received.

On December 19, 2016, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with community resources and the case was closed on January 6, 2017.

On November 16, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to children by the child's mother and Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with community resources and childcare and the case was closed on January 18, 2018.



On July 12, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by the child's mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with community resources and the case was closed on August 11, 2020.

On December 9, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to Jia Montanez and her siblings by the child's mother and Tuulafoaina Sione Poloa. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with community resources and the case was closed on February 23, 2021.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation was conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

10. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe with their mother.

11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

The Department will continue to assess for services as the investigation continues.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.